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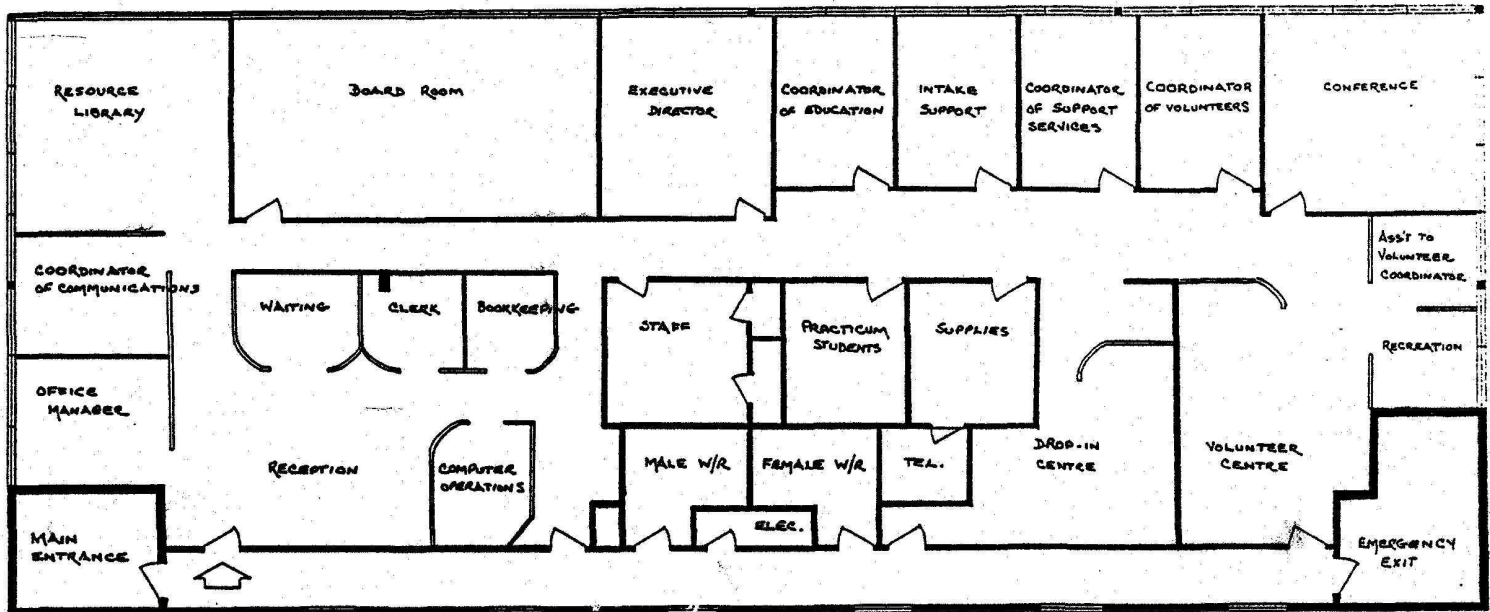
# NEWSLETTER

AIDS NETWORK OF EDMONTON SOCIETY

January 1988

Vol. 3 Num. 1

## we have moved !



The NETWORK has moved to a new office. Moving day saw desks, chairs, boxes, files, plants, telephones transferred from the office on 98 Street and 102 Ave. to the new Ross Armstrong Office on the Second Floor of 10704 - 108 Street.

In the last 18 months, NETWORK staff has grown from one person - Tom Gale, office coordinator - to a permanent staff of six and further staff hired through temporary employment programs and practicum student programme.

Thirteen people, all working out of the cramped but cozy office above the Astoria Cafe! Now the boxes, files, desks, and chairs have been moved to a much larger space. The Executive Director, Social Worker, Intake Worker and Volunteer Coordinator have real offices, with real walls.

There is a reception area. There is also a volunteer work space and a drop-in-centre for persons with AIDS. Our resource centre

has a workspace and reading area for visitors who come to research AIDS topics.

For staff, volunteers and clients, the new office will require adjustments. Board Committees and Support Group meetings can be now held on the premises, and support staff can hold private meetings with clients. Staff will enjoy the luxury of having their own chair to sit on, in their own workspace.

Volunteers who come in to staff the Info Line will have their own work station, separate from the reception area, and there will be room for volunteers to staple, fold and stuff materials without having to balance paper and boxes on top of telephones and chairs.

The new office will be sparsely furnished for the next few weeks, but a "wish list" has been sent to a number of businesses in Edmonton, and it is hoped that surplus chairs, desks, and filing cabinets will be donated.

# canadian poll on aids and sexual behaviour

by: Wayne Hellard

Each year MacLean's commissions a poll on various subjects that form a report known as the "MacLean's/Decima Poll". The results of the 1987 poll appear in the January 4th, 1988 issue of MacLean's: Canada's Weekly News-magazine. As AIDS is a topic often taking "front page" or "lead story" status in the media, it is not surprising that AIDS and sexual behavior formed a large part of this year's poll. Decima obtained responses from 1500 Canadians from all areas of the country, both rural and urban, male and female, and from the heterosexual, homosexual and bisexual segments of Canadian society. Marital/relationship status, financial status, sex, sexual orientation, education, political affiliation, religious affiliation were among the many items that formed part of the base information obtained on each of the respondents.

Of interest to the writer were five basic questions:

1. Has fear of AIDS changed your sex habits?
2. Do you have personal concerns about contracting AIDS - (concerned - not concerned)?
3. Have you ever had sex with a stranger?
4. How sexually active are you : very active, somewhat, not very, not at all?
5. If you have been married or lived with a partner, have you ever had an affair outside that relationship?

Questions (1) and (2) were also asked in the 1985 poll. Question (3) was included in the 1986 poll, while question (4) was a repeat from both the 1985 and 1986 polls. Question (5) is a new one.

Of prime interest to any group working with AIDS is question (2). MacLean's reports the results to this question as follows:

Personal Concern About Contracting AIDS?		
	1985	1987
Concerned	46%	53%
Not Concerned	55%	47%

Decima considered the increase between 1985 and 1987 of 7% for those concerned to be significant, and went on to report that of the 53% in the concerned bracket for 1987, almost one half were very concerned (25% of the total polled). MacLean's suggested that fear of AIDS is also reflected in the fact that 36% of the sample population were against teachers who had tested HIV antibody positive being allowed in the classroom.

When we look at the responses broken down by sexual orientation, we see that 86% of the homosexual respondents were in the concerned category, and 54% of the heterosexual respondents fell into the same category.

The most disturbing response came from the bisexual respondents. In this group MacLean's/Decima found that only 44% were in the concerned category.

One of the goals of a community-based AIDS organization is education of the public, in an attempt to change sexual behaviors that promote the spread of the virus. "Are Canadians changing their sex habits", was another question asked in the poll, with the following results:

Has Fear of AIDS Changed Your Sex Habits?		
	1985	1987
Somewhat/Great Deal	11%	19%
Not Too Much/Not at All	89%	81%

According to MacLean's, while a majority of the population sampled were concerned, this concern "...did not always translate into a change of sexual habits". Again, breaking the population down by sexual orientation we again see that the homosexual population has changed their habits (86%), while only 19% of the heterosexual population had, and most disturbing of all, only 13% of the bisexual population had.

Looking at these same two questions from another point of view suggests that "...Marital status seems to be another major factor in how Canadians feel". 72% of those polled were or had been married. Of this percentage, 86% (approximately 900 people) stated that they had never had an extramarital affair.

Looking at the approximately 600 people who had never been married, 68% were concerned about contracting AIDS (compared to 49% of those who were married) and 40% of the singles group had changed their sexual habits (compared to 10% of those who were married).

MacLean's concludes that "...for many people, panic has given way to an acceptance of the fact that even if a vaccine were developed in the near future, AIDS will continue to claim lives for many years ...concern has grown significantly, and many of them are still fearful - sometimes irrationally - about contracting the disease".

# AADAC sponsors AIDS conference

## FEBRUARY 18-19, 1988

The AADAC Recovery Centre is coordinating a 2 day conference on AIDS which should be of interest to health care professionals, teachers and support and care givers who may be involved with AIDS issues. The conference takes place February 18 and 19, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Edmonton Inn.

Keynote speakers are Mr. Stan Nelson, MLA and Chairman of AADAC, who will address "Government's Response to the AIDS Crisis", and Hon. Nancy Betkowski, Minister for Education will address "Educating the Educators on AIDS".

Speakers from the University of Calgary, University of Alberta, Canadian Red Cross, AADAC, Canadian AIDS Society, AIDS Network of Edmonton Society, Royal Alexander Hospital Pastoral Care, and Alberta Solicitor General will be addressing a wide variety of issues around AIDS, including client support, substance abuse and AIDS, patient management, social and psychological aspects of AIDS, blood transfusion and AIDS, counselling the AIDS patient, the AIDS issue in the correctional setting and AIDS and hemophilia. A person with AIDS will talk about his personal experiences.

A Panel Discussion entitled "Multi-Dimensional View of AIDS" with Dr. Barbara Romanowski, Director of STD Control in Alberta, Rev. Charles Bidwell, Minister for the Metropolitan Community Church, and Dr. Keith I. Pearce, Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Calgary will wrap up the two-day seminar. The discussion will be moderated by Dr. John Gill, Chairman of the Provincial Advisory Council on AIDS.

The Seminar fee is \$50.00, and proceeds above operating costs will go to the AIDS Network of Edmonton Society.

Included in the \$50.00 fee is a fund-raising banquet, with guest speaker Catherine Hankins, MD, Director of the Montreal Regional STD Control Program and formerly of Calgary Health Services.

Additional banquet tickets can be purchased for \$25.00, for those who are unable to attend the conference, but would like to support the fund-raising effort.

For registration information, contact Nick de Silva at the AADAC Recovery Centre (427-4291) or contact the AIDS NETWORK office (424-4767).

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# THANKS

The assistance from local community groups, businesses and individuals to support our programs of public education, information and aid to clients has been significant during the past month. Homestead Recorders has donated studio time, equipment and technical assistance for the radio ads, which were written, produced and voiced by Ron Graham.

Metropolitan Community Church and an anonymous individual have donated food boxes and grocery gift certificates respectively to help clients during the holiday season.

Many of our clients are on fixed minimal income and nutrition is always a need which clients have difficulty maintaining on a tight budget. These donations helped in providing a little extra enjoyment over the holidays and assisted in stretching tight budget dollars.

THANKS also go to Liz Weber for hosting the Christmas Party for NETWORK Staff and Volunteers December 18th. A great time was had by all.

We are grateful to these groups and individuals and express our heartfelt THANKS!

# VOLUNTEER

# NEWS

It's so exciting to be planning volunteer activities on the eve of our move into the new office. With this move come exciting new possibilities and opportunities to serve the needs of our clients and the community.

## UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

### VOLUNTEER TRAINING PROGRAM

Volunteer training sessions which are presently being held are open to all current volunteers. If you are interested in attending the current sessions, or the next series in April, please contact Brigitte to register - 424-4767.

### HOSPITAL VISITATION PROGRAM

We are seeking volunteers interested in making regular weekly visits to our clients in the U of A Hospital for a minimum of a three-month time commitment. A talk on Infection Precautions given by Carol Johnson, R.N., will be held on February 02, 1988 at our new office from 7 - 9 p.m.

### RECREATION PROGRAM

Part of the new Recreational Program at the NETWORK includes a Drop-In for all persons with AIDS. We are looking for volunteers with Arts/Crafts skills, anyone who would be willing to give guitar lessons on a one-to-one basis and someone with leadership skills in massage, relaxation, Tai Chi, Reiki and/or Yoga to help run programs associated with the drop-in. If you are interested in sharing your talents with us please call Doris at the office.

### BUDDY VOLUNTEERS

The next buddy support meeting will be a potluck supper/meeting on February 24th at 6:00 p.m. at the home of Liz Weber.

### OFFICE ASSISTANCE

We need people to help us with general clerical and reception duties, especially Monday mornings to handle telephone calls while staff are meeting together. Do you know anyone who may want to be a volunteer with ANE and could start immediately?

## TIME SHEETS - WHY?

Volunteer time sheets are very important! Statistics of monthly volunteer hours are used in supporting requests for ongoing funding. Volunteer hours reflect a invaluable human resource which would otherwise be impossible to offer as a service to the community.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Would you be interested in helping with the AADAC and ANE Conference on AIDS on February 18/19th? We are looking for 4 - 5 volunteers to help with the registration booth and collecting tickets on the banquet evening. These volunteers will be able to attend the remainder of the conference free. Please contact Brigitte by February 12th.

## Doonesbury

By GARRY TRUDEAU







## JANUARY

**CELEBRATE:** January 22, Bonnie Doon Community Hall - a hall party sponsored by the Celebrate Society. Tickets \$5.00 - proceeds to the AIDS NETWORK. Tickets are available from the NETWORK Office.

### EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD FORUM ON AIDS

Thursday, Jan. 28th - 7 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.  
Centre for Education - One Kingsway  
Open to all staff, parents and members of the community.



Support Group for the Worried Well and those at risk is set to begin a new format in the next couple of weeks. The format will include information and response to personal concerns, stress, coping skills. Contact NETWORK for more information.

## care-givers' support group

Health Care Providers have formed a support group. The focus of this group is to provide support for one another who take care of HIV+ patients in the community and health care setting. The meeting occurs monthly on the second Thursday of the month. For further information call Susan Smythe at 453-5382 or John Moi at 477-4119 or Carol Johnson at 432-6134.



"And this little packet contains three of them."

## February

GATE Pink Triangle Dance - February 13th at the Bonnie Doon Community Centre

Provincial Conference on AIDS organized by AADAC with assistance from the AIDS NETWORK. February 18/19 at the Edmonton Inn. For Registration information, phone 424-4767 or 427-4291.

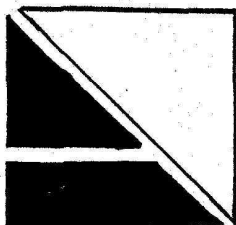
## March

AIDS AWARENESS WEEK \*\*March 21-27\*\*  
Date change from February. AIDS AWARENESS WEEK will be province-wide, with groups in Edmonton, Calgary, Grande Prairie, Red Deer and Lethbridge participating.

AIDS NETWORK Annual General Meeting - will be held on Thursday, March 24th - 7:30 p.m. at the Edmonton Library Theatre (downtown).

Office Address:

10704 - 108 Street  
Second Floor  
Edmonton, AB  
T5H 3A3



Telephone Number:

Info Line: 429-AIDS  
Business Line: 424-4767

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
Information Line Hours  
Monday -Thursday 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.  
Friday - 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
Saturday - 12 noon - 4 p.m.

The Newsletter is published monthly by the AIDS NETWORK of Edmonton Society with financial assistance from the HEALTH PROMOTION DIRECTORATE OF HEALTH AND WELFARE CANADA. The AIDS NETWORK of Edmonton Society, incorporated in February, 1986, is a registered non-profit charitable organization. The mandate of the AIDS NETWORK is to provide education about AIDS to the general public and individuals at risk, support to individuals affected by AIDS, and coordination of services for people with AIDS or ARC. Articles are usually prepared by NETWORK staff and/or the source acknowledged when reprinted.

## ROSS ARMSTRONG Memorial Fund

UPDATE: January 20, 1988

Donations:	\$3623.35
Membership	2400.00
Interest:	156.79
Total Income:	6220.14
Awards:	\$3528.82
Balance:	\$2651.32

The AIDS NETWORK of  
Edmonton is a Member  
of the CANADIAN AIDS  
SOCIETY/LA SOCIÉTÉ  
CANADIENNE DU SIDA



## SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE AIDS NETWORK OF EDMONTON SOCIETY

The AIDS Network of Edmonton Society, incorporated in February, 1986, is a registered non-profit charitable organization. The mandate of the AIDS NETWORK is to provide education about AIDS to the high-risk groups and the general public, support to individuals with AIDS and ARC and co-ordination of services for individuals with AIDS/ARC.

**INFORMATIONAL:** An informational and support line operates Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 9 p.m. A leading resource library is available to agencies and the public.

**EDUCATIONAL:** A speakers' bureau provides speakers for Educational presentations to concerned groups. Audiovisual materials and information files are available on loan.

**COUNSELLING:** Confidential one-on-one counselling services are available to persons directly or indirectly concerned about AIDS.

Referrals to other professional services are made upon request.

**SUPPORT GROUPS:** For persons who have tested positive for HIV Antibodies. For persons with AIDS. Friends, families, and partners of persons with AIDS.

**ADVOCACY:** Assistance will be provided to individuals facing difficulties in receiving services because of their health status.

The AIDS NETWORK works to coordinate the services of supportive public and private agencies in all areas involved by the AIDS crisis.

The services of the AIDS Network of Edmonton Society are provided FREE and on a CONFIDENTIAL bases.

"AIDS Network of Edmonton Society Newsletter January 1988 Vol. 3 Issue. 1." AIDS Network of Edmonton Newsletter, vol. 3, no. 1, Jan. 1988, pp. 1+. Archives of Sexuality and Gender, [link.gale.com/apps/doc/CHRQIL613244625/AHSI?u=edmo87290&sid=bookmark-AHSI](https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/CHRQIL613244625/AHSI?u=edmo87290&sid=bookmark-AHSI). Accessed 12 July 2024.